Governor Rod R. Blagojevich   June 30, 2004
Director Charles D. Johnson

Delinquent SeniorCare clients given 3-month stay

A three-month grace period has been allowed SeniorCare clients who did not re-establish their eligibility by the July 1 deadline, the Illinois Department of Public Aid has announced. During the grace period, which ends September 30, members of the aging network are urged to reach delinquent clients and remind them to make the mandated annual application. Temporary eligibility letters are not being sent to clients who have not renewed as in the past, a spokesperson for Public Aid states.

The extension is aided by the fact that identification numbers will not change this year as they did last year. As a result, pharmacies will be able to fill prescriptions using existing identification numbers on file. Pharmacies are being notified to bill under the SeniorCare identification number in cases where the client does not have a new SeniorCare card.

SeniorCare is the state-administered plan that helps low-income older people pay for most prescription drugs and many over-the-counter drugs prescribed by a doctor. Illinois residents who are at least 65 years old with annual incomes of no more than $9,309 for a single or $12,489 for a married couple are eligible for help up to $1,750 at no cost. After that cap is reached, the client is required to pay 20 percent of the cost of each prescription.

The program also offers help to seniors with a slightly higher income level. For singles with annual incomes from up to $18,620 and couples to $24,980, the program also offers prescription coverage of the first $1,750 in benefits; however, clients are asked to pay $1 for each generic and $4 for each brand-name prescription. After the cap is reached, clients must pay $1 for each generic and $4 for each brand-name plus 20 percent of the cost of each prescription.

For more information, contact the Illinois Department on Aging Senior HelpLine:
1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY) or ilsenior@aging.state.il.us.